

# The I/O Connector



JANUARY 1989

Newsletter of The San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

San Diego  
Atari Computer  
Enthusiasts

P.O.Box 203076, San Diego, CA 92120



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# The San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

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**XE/ST Sysop: Rick DeHaven**

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Newsletter Submissions: Send all text and graphics to the club P O Box or Sig 1 of the S.D.A.C.E. BBS by the 30th of the month for inclusion the next month. Text should be ASCII or Word Writer.

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### ST Librarian

Paul Huntington, 464-0444

### BBS Sysop

Rick Dehaven, 284-2365

### Newsletter Editor

Bob Ames, 263-8591 (10am-8pm)



# OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

BY TOM BRIANT

For those of you who didn't vote for me or Mike Bergman at the December meeting, let me introduce myself. I started with my 1040 in October 1986 to learn spreadsheets. I looked at IBM compatibles, but they cost \$1295 then. Same for the Amiga 1000. Gorgeous graphics, but at \$1300, it cost too much. The 1040 at \$932 with monochrome monitor and double sided drive just made it.

First up, our relationship with the San Diego Computer Society. The Society serves as the parent organization for many user groups covering hardware, software, and whatnot.

For technical reasons no user group has members, we all belong to the San Diego Computer Society at one level or another. The \$18 you pay each year covers your newsletter subscription, not membership dues. The Society collects two dollars per user group member to cover its costs. Most importantly, the Board of Directors takes care of the myriad tax forms and insurance forms necessary to run non-profit organizations.

The SIG Council, which I attend each month, will debate next year whether to allow user groups to have true members. We will also decide whether to change from a \$2 per member charge to a gross annual revenue percentage. Nothing is set, all is under discussion. More importantly, these discussions take place in a cordial and pleasant atmosphere.

Paul Huntington deserves our applause for compiling the ST Public Domain library catalog. And I do

mean catalog! This is a good-sized book, with quarterly updates to come. Paul will distribute these to the Federateds, Computer Outlets, Computer Plus, Warners, and maybe some music stores selling ST MIDI software, too. If you want a printed copy, it's \$5.00 to cover Paul's costs. Congratulations, Paul, on an outstanding job.

By the time you read this, S.D.A.C.E. will have put on a show at the San Diego Computer Society's January meeting. The S.D.C.S. leadership realizes an emphasis on I.B.M. and Macintosh software and hardware tends to alienate users of other computers; Radio Shack Color Computers, Timex/Sinclair, Apple II, Commodore and Amiga, and of course, we Atari users. So Hank Blake, the S.D.C.S. Vice-President and Program Coordinator, asked us to demonstrate the latest and greatest in Atari software and hardware. Hopefully, the audience will see demonstrations of Spectre 128, the Calamus desktop publishing program, and the Graphics Operating Environment for the 8-bits.

I do not intend to demonstrate the Happy Computer Discovery Cartridge at the San Diego Computer Society because Happy aided pirates. Their cartridge enables the ST to read practically any disk format—Macintosh MFS and HFS, IBM high density 5.25" and 3.5" disks—and write most of them, too. By posting text files and programs on GEnie abetting piracy,

Happy soiled its reputation in the Atari community. Fortunately, the

GEnie Atari sysops pulled the offending programs.

On a pleasanter note, Michtron resumed shipments of GFA BASIC 3.0, held up while awaiting the second manual printing. GFA wants to start its own American distribution network, but Michtron will support GFA products until then. In the meantime, Michtron will begin distributing products from HiSoft and Kuma, two British companies. They will offer a good deal on Hisoft BASIC and Power BASIC. Send in the title page from any old BASIC manual with a check or money order and get either BASIC for half price! How does \$80 for a compiler compatible with MicroSoft QuickBASIC source code sound?

Atari must put up or shut up in 1989. The Ameoba 500 now sells in the Software, Etc stores found in numerous shopping malls. In MIDI, Atari can breath a little, as the Yamaha MIDI laptop only supports Yamaha software. Apparently, most IBM MIDI software looks for the Roland MPU-401 interface, which the Yamaha lacks. So Atari has some time left to bring out its laptop. Atari promises to bring out its 68030 based machine by July 1st, the end of the second quarter. As this machine will run UNIX, I wonder whether it will cut into the market coveted by Steve Job's NeXT computer, the academic market. If it costs \$3,000, less than half the NeXT's \$6,500, and runs UNIX with few modifications, I predict it will sell well.. See you at the January meeting!



## VDOS Prodigy Released

The late breaking news from Marathon Computer Press is that the Prodigal Son of their extremely popular Share War Product VDOS was released for commercial use the first of the new year.

The newly redesigned and powerfully extended version of VDOS was named VDOS Prodigy.

According to the promo hype, this latest version of this program will "prove to leave the competition in the dust once and for all."

The suggested retail price is \$69.95, and for more information you can contact Marathon Computer Press, P.O.Box 68503, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

## Off With His Modem

You have to have a sense of humor to live with the four seasons of Syracuse, NY and the members of the Atari group there surely do.

The masthead of their newsletter reads A. C. E. Offices, Ministries of Propaganda and lists the following titles: Lord and Master, Minister of Technological Dinosaurs, Minister of Emulating Computers (ST), Exchequer, and **His Grace**, the Editor, (I love that one.)

They also list a Contributing Scribe, Head Footman and Routing, and several Labeling Scribes.

I have many fond memories of that upstate metropolis, some thirty five miles from where I grew up, and if it weren't for a particularly obnoxious relative that still calls Syracuse home, I might consider going back just for the pure thrill of one more of those glorious winter blizzards they do so well.

## Atari BBS List

SDACE-BBS XE/ST  
284-3821

COMPUTER PLUS XE/ST  
691-7862

COMPUTER OUTLET ST  
282-6815

COMPUTER BLVD ST  
670-1095

SMART 520 ST  
480-9686 /726-4419

THE LORD'S HOUSE XE  
579-7354

SHERWOOD FOREST XE  
273-5603

COMPUTOREDGE ST  
573-1675

Updates & Additions Welcome

## EIGHT-bit Group NOT Dead,

Librarian Plans New Library Index for 89

Ladies and Gentleman, the Atari 8-bit group is NOT, I repeat, NOT dead.

Our 8-bit librarian, Dan Huffman has hundreds of disks chock full of excellent programs. He has promised a new Library Index, streamlined, easy to use, in the near future.

Included in the new index are quite a variety of programs. Juvenile educational games, Demos, Music, Languages, Applications, Utilities and all sorts of Games.

If you need help with your 8-bit, contact your coordinator/chairman, listed in the current issue of I/O Connector.

A short course in Basic Programming is also available through your EIGHT-bit chairman.

It consists of four sessions, two hours each.

Cost is \$10.00 to cover the materials used in the class.

### *"We Regret To Announce"*

## Lets Not Have This Happen to Us

The first line read, "This is one of the saddest letter I will ever have the misfortune of writing." Charles Grimsby, President of the Twin Cities Atari Interest Group of Minneapolis, MN then went on to announce that the group would hold its final meeting on December 18, 1988. The reason, he said, was simple. A lack of money.

The newsletter editor was more pointed. "You spent \$500 for your Atari 8-bit...ST owners much more."

"Wouldn't you like the quality support a user group could give you?" he asked.

I am doing this newsletter tonight, on a Mega 4, with a laser printer, only because members of SDACE gave me the learning help I couldn't get elsewhere.

Keep SDACE strong. Pay your dues for the new year, let me know what you want in the newsletter and from the club, and bring a friend to the next meeting.



*Teaching an Old Dog New Tricks*

## The New Editor: A Man and His Lazer

by Bob Ames

You may remember that at the November meeting there were barely enough volunteers to get a slate of officers elected. Thus you might wonder why some nut who was attending a meeting for the very first time would stick up his hand and say sure, I'll be the editor of the newsletter.

Desperation, my friends, desperation. You see, some months before I had seen an ad from Federated saying that an Atari could do anything in Desktop Publishing that a Mac could do, only faster.

Having just invented a new magazine, I figured this would be just the ticket. Just me and this miracle gadget, no typesetter, no paste-up people, no editors, none of the expensive and creative ego types that had kept my bank account in the red and my nerves in a basket during previous publications I had owned.

Well I knew the \$10,000 plus for the Mac system was out of the question, so off I went to Federated thinking, what the hell, it can't hurt to look.

There I met Frank. You all know Frankie, suave, debonair, could sell refrigerators to Eskimos while assuring them that running an extension cord from Seattle would be no problem.

To make a long story short, I took a hammer to my piggy bank,

(that took a week, the pig was a balloon payment on a house deal in New York that wasn't supposed to be due for another three years) and bought the biggest desk top system that Frankie could put together.

Well we got it home and set up. The Mega ST4, the Megafile 20, the monitor, the SLM804 laser, the Dot Matrix printer and enough cables, cords and software to fill a closet. I was as excited as a kid with a lifetime pass to Disneyland.

An hour latter, I was in the basket again. Me, who had earned seventeen bucks an hour in the Big Apple doing paste-ups, couldn't make the damn computer print my own name, or hardly anything else for that matter. In less time that it took to unpack the boxes, I had gone from a reasonably intelligent, capable man to feeling like a total idiot.

Reading the manuals helped hardly at all, screaming at Frankie helped a little, threatening the Federated store manager with the instant return of the whole system got me a Ho-Hum that could be heard almost to Sunnyvale and an offer to have lessons from Frank; at the store, between phone calls and customers, while lugging my hard disk around with me as if it was a purse.

Then Frank sent me to that meeting of the users group. When I

learned the newsletter was up for grabs, I said to my self, **self**, here is your chance. The group needs a newsletter; I know how to do newsletters. They know how to make my software produce one and will teach me how just to get out of having to do the job themselves.

Humor aside, with some ten hours of help from Tom Briant, which he generously and cheerfully gave, I designed and produced the newsletter you hold in your hand.

What's more, with the kindness of Rick DeHaven, and a little help from my checkbook, the next issue will be produced using state-of-the-art CALAMUS.

I have the tools, the knowledge, and the time, but this is **YOUR** newsletter, so if you can write articles, draw cartoons, or just offer suggestions for material you would find interesting or useful, call me.

Together, we can make this the best computer-group newsletter in San Diego, and I ask you, what can be better than being the best?

**Late Flash:** Sorry you will have to wait for your mail to see this finished, but MLK Jr Day made last minute printing impossible. But as a result of printing out these lazer copies, my housemate and I can now claim experience with changing the toner in a laser. Thanks again to Rick DeHaven, he had one in stock.

**The Retiree Employment Club**  
215 3rd Street, Chula Vista  
(619) 425-4492

**Needs advice on using Timeworks  
Publishing St to publish a newsletter.  
Open every Sunday from 9 am to 6 pm.  
Ask for Glen Cooper**

**DAVID OSMAN**  
I.R.S. ENROLLED AGENT

**EASY INCOME TAX PROGRAM**  
Federal, California + 10 schedules  
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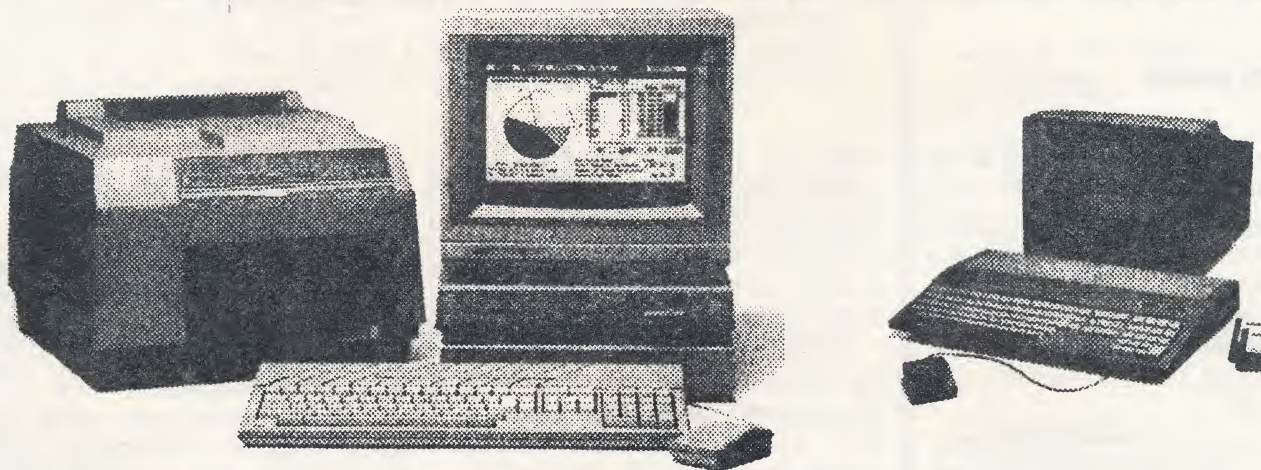
3151 Hawthorn Street  
San Diego, CA 92104

Telephone  
234-7823





# Computer Outlet DTP System Price Sheet



## Atari ST Systems

AtariMEGA2ST(2MBB RAM)	\$1195.99	Atari MEGA 4ST (4 MEG RAM)	\$1795.99
Atari 520STfm (512K RAM)	\$520.99	Atari 1040ST (1 MEG RAM)	\$799.99
SF354 Disk Drive Single Sided	\$179.99	SF314 Disk Drive Double Sided	\$229.99
Atari SM124 Monochrome Monitor	\$179.99	Atari SC1224 Color RGB Monitor	\$359.99
Supra 20 MEG Hard-disk	\$599.99	Atari Laser Printer SLM804	\$1599.99
MEGA ST2 Mono System	\$1299.99	MEGA ST4 Mono System	\$1899.99
MEGA ST2 Color System	\$1499.99	MEGA ST4 Color System	\$2099.99
520STfm Mono System	\$699.99	1040ST Mono System	\$949.99
520STfm Color System	\$799.99	1040ST Color System	\$1040.99

## Atari Desktop Publishing System Prices

### Entry Level System

Atari 1040 ST  
Timeworks DTP  
Star NX-1000 Printer  
All required cables

*Under \$1250*

### Advanced Entry System

Atari 1040 ST  
20 Meg Hard Disk  
Timeworks DTP  
Star NX-1000 Printer  
All required cables

*Under \$1850*

### Almost Laser System

Atari 1040 ST  
20 Meg Hard Disk  
Timeworks DTP  
HP Deskjet  
All required cables

*Under \$2375*

### Laser Printer System#1

Atari MEGA ST2  
20 Meg Hard Disk  
Timeworks DTP  
Atari SLM804 Laser  
All required cables

*Under \$3200*

### Laser Printer System#2

Atari MEGA ST4  
20 Meg Hard Disk  
Timeworks DTP  
Atari SLM804 Laser  
All required cables

*Under \$3900*

### Laser Printer System#3

Atari MEGA ST4  
60 Meg Hard Disk  
Timeworks DTP  
Atari SLM804 Laser  
Navarone Scanner

*Under \$5300*

630 Nordahl K  
San Marcos, CA 92069  
(619) 740-0111

344 East H St  
Chula Vista, CA 92010  
(619) 585-8100

5945 Mission Gorge Rd  
San Diego, CA 92120  
(619) 282-6200